

**Q.** Mr. President, what do you think about——

**Q.** Mr. President, if you put the UN on a scale of 1 to 10, where would you place it?

**The President.** Rising rapidly. [Laughter]

#### **Canada-Cuba Trade Agreement**

**Q.** What do you think about Canada's trade deal with Cuba?

**The President.** Excuse me?

**Q.** Canada's trade deal with Cuba?

**The President.** What about it?

**Q.** What is your reaction to it? Do you have any?

**The President.** Well, my reaction is I'm gratified that the Canadians, along with the Europeans, are now talking more to the Cubans about human rights and democratic reforms. I'm skeptical, frankly, that it will—that the recent discussions between the Canadians and the Cubans will lead to advances. I believe that our policy is the proper one, but I'm glad that the Canadians are trying to make something good happen in Cuba.

#### **U.S. Debt to the United Nations**

**Q.** Gentlemen, would the two of you like to have a common strategy about how to get a reluctant Congress to give up this money?

**The President.** Well, I think we have common interests there. I've already told you that I'm utterly convinced that the Secretary-General has a chance to genuinely reform the United Nations for the 21st century because he is committed to do it and because he and his team have the capacity to do it. And I think all that remains is for him to establish an appropriate relationship with our Congress. And I think he'll do it and do quite well with it. And we don't need to coordinate a strategy for that. No secret here, we've told you everything we've just said in there.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:21 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

#### **Memorandum on Increasing Seatbelt Use**

*January 23, 1997*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation*

*Subject: Increasing Seatbelt Use Nationwide*

We have made steady progress in improving highway safety over the years. However, there are still far too many tragic and unnecessary deaths and injuries on the Nation's roads. As a first line of defense, we must all wear seatbelts. Seatbelts protect passengers not only in frontal crashes, but also in side, rear, and rollover crashes, saving about 10,000 lives a year. I understand that about 70 percent of the population use seatbelts. Increasing seatbelt use will clearly save more lives and reduce injuries.

I hereby direct you, working with the Congress, the States, and other concerned Americans, including the automobile and insurance industries, and safety and consumer groups, to report back to me in 45 days with a plan to increase the use of seatbelts nationwide. The plan shall address, among other things, the State laws that require the use of seatbelts, assistance from the Department of Transportation to improve those State laws, and a comprehensive education campaign on behalf of the public and private sector to help the public understand the need to wear seatbelts.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

#### **Remarks at the Swearing-In of William Cohen as Secretary of Defense and an Exchange With Reporters**

*January 24, 1997*

**The President.** Good morning. Mr. Vice President, Secretary-about-to-be Cohen, Janet, Secretary Perry, Deputy Secretary White, General Shalikashvili, General Ralston, Senator Inouye, Senator Levin, Senator